

MARGARET STONE.

JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LOUDENSLAGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 947.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 947) granting a pension to Margaret Stone, have considered the same and respectfully report:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate Report No. 1230, this session, and the same, fully stating the facts, is adopted by your committee as their report, and the bill is returned with the recommendation that it do pass.

[Senate Report No. 1230, Fifty-fourth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 947) granting a pension to Margaret Stone, have examined the same, and report:

Margaret Stone is the widow of Benoni Stone, who enlisted in Captain Pittman's company, First Regiment West Florida Militia, Florida war, May 6, 1837, and was discharged June 5, 1837. He claimed and was granted a pension of \$8 per month under the act of July 27, 1892, which pension he drew until the last pension day before his death, and his widow, this claimant, was paid the accrued pension from the date of last payment to the date of his death.

The widow filed a claim in her own right, which was rejected on the ground that though thirty days intervened between the dates of soldier's enlistment and discharge, and he was paid for thirty days' service, six days of that time was spent in traveling to and from the place of rendezvous, and that said six days should be deducted from the thirty days which he served and for which he was paid, leaving but twenty-four days, and that the widow is not entitled. This position was sustained by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior on appeal.

Your committee are of the opinion that this is clearly wrong. The soldier enlisted for the Florida war, served thirty days, for which he was paid, and was granted pension on account of said service. The widow is clearly entitled to pension, and the passage of the bill is recommended.